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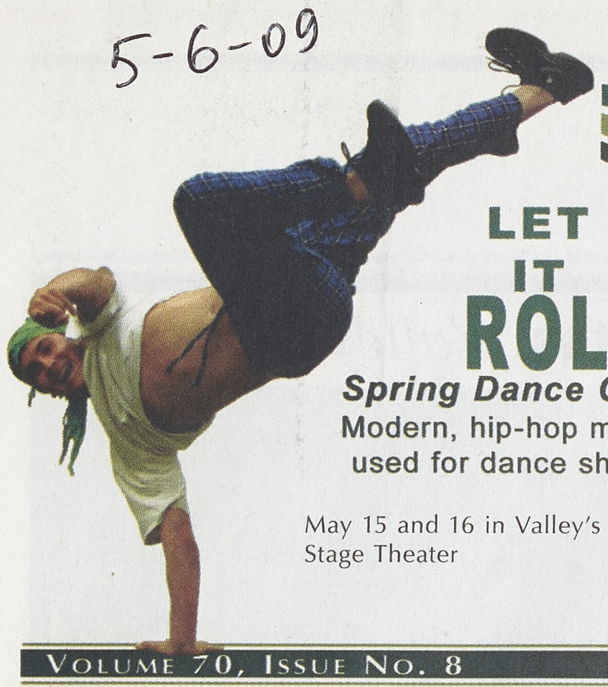

LET IT ROLL

Spring Dance Concert

Modern, hip-hop music used for dance show.

May 15 and 16 in Valley's Main Stage Theater

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE'S

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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GM means General Mistake for automakers
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Valley's Theater Department shows a twisted fairytale
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Monarch baseball ends season with 6-2 loss to Mission
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VOLUME 70, ISSUE NO. 8 | LAVALLEYSTAR.COM | May 6, 2009

Fees An Issue For Action Committee

■ **The Political Action Coalition held a rally on campus last week to inform students of possible budget cuts and fee increases.**

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students converged on the Freedom of Speech area April 29, to participate in the "Political Awareness" rally held by the Political Action Coalition. The rally's organizers said they wanted to let students know that the budget crisis affecting California's community colleges has not been settled.

"Our goal is to inform students about the potential fee increase and to get them politically active on campus," said PAC Vice President Erica Rey. "We want to make sure nothing gets cut during the May revise."

Though a tentative budget was agreed to earlier this year by California lawmakers, it is subject to a revision process, which will take place during the early days of summer. The "May Revise" could change any part of the budget and will take place in early June.

Before that happens, the PAC said they plan to meet with several local legislators to deliver petitions they passed out during the rally.

"We want to deliver them to let (the legislators) know we still support them and hope they continue to support us," said Rey.

ASU Vice President-elect Ian

see *Rally* page 2

CALLING UP THE SPIRITS

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

Members of Xipetotec Danzantes Aztecas perform at the Annabelle's Play Day event, held in Monarch Square on Saturday. The costume colors are reminiscent of the Cinco de Mayo celebrations held across the country Tuesday, marking Mexico's victory over the French during the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

Awareness Remains Key to Avoiding Illness

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

As the H1N1 "swine flu" virus continues to linger over the country, common sense should reign over the panic that has taken over the world in the past few weeks. Students can continue to keep themselves safe during the outbreak and those to come by following these simple steps.

Washing your hands is the easiest form of prevention against the flu. The virus can live on the body's surface, and the "Number one [prevention] is hand-washing," according to Reuters. Not only can keeping hands clean halt the spread of the virus, but it is "A surprisingly effective way to prevent all sorts of diseases."

If you are feeling ill, stay indoors and away from school and work.

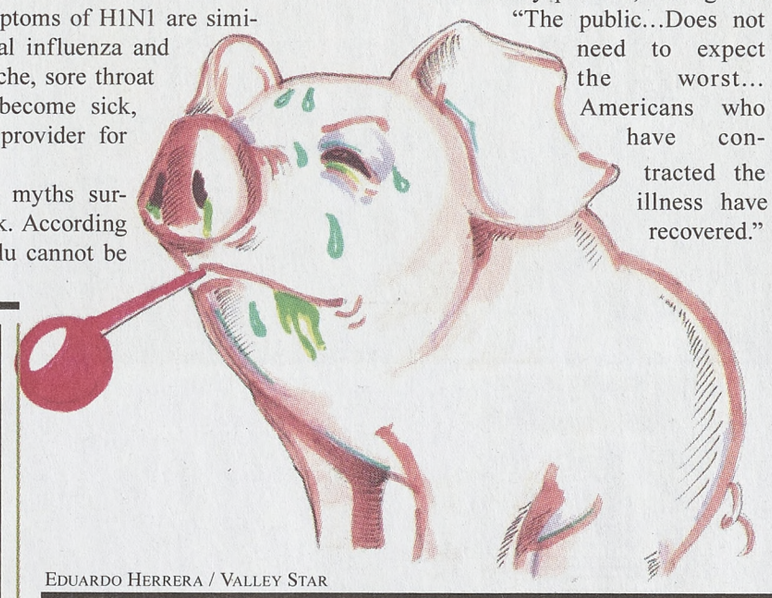
Like the common influenza we are used to, the virus is spread person-to-person. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention advises staying home from school or work to limit contact with others to avoid infection.

Awareness is paramount when it comes to the disease. The symptoms of H1N1 are similar to that of seasonal influenza and include fever, headache, sore throat and cough. If you become sick, contact your health provider for advice and treatment.

Be aware of the myths surrounding the outbreak. According to the CDC, swine flu cannot be contracted by eating pork or pork products, nor is the swine flu more deadly than seasonal flu outbreaks.

Lastly, don't panic about possible infection, as anxiety can cause unnecessary stress about the disease.

The American Psychological Association Web site advises to stay positive, stating that "The public...Does not need to expect the worst... Americans who have contracted the illness have recovered."



EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

The Past is Gone, but Never Forgotten

■ **Students gather to honor and remember the Armenian Genocide.**

NATALIE KESHISHIAN AND ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITERS

Every person that walks the halls of Valley College has a heritage, whether it relates to a country that they recently immigrated from, or their ancestry traced back over many years. Like many other cultures, Armenian heritage is marred by mass murder and Diaspora. The Armenian community gathered in Monarch Hall April 28, in remembrance and recognition of their heritage and in honor of the 94th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

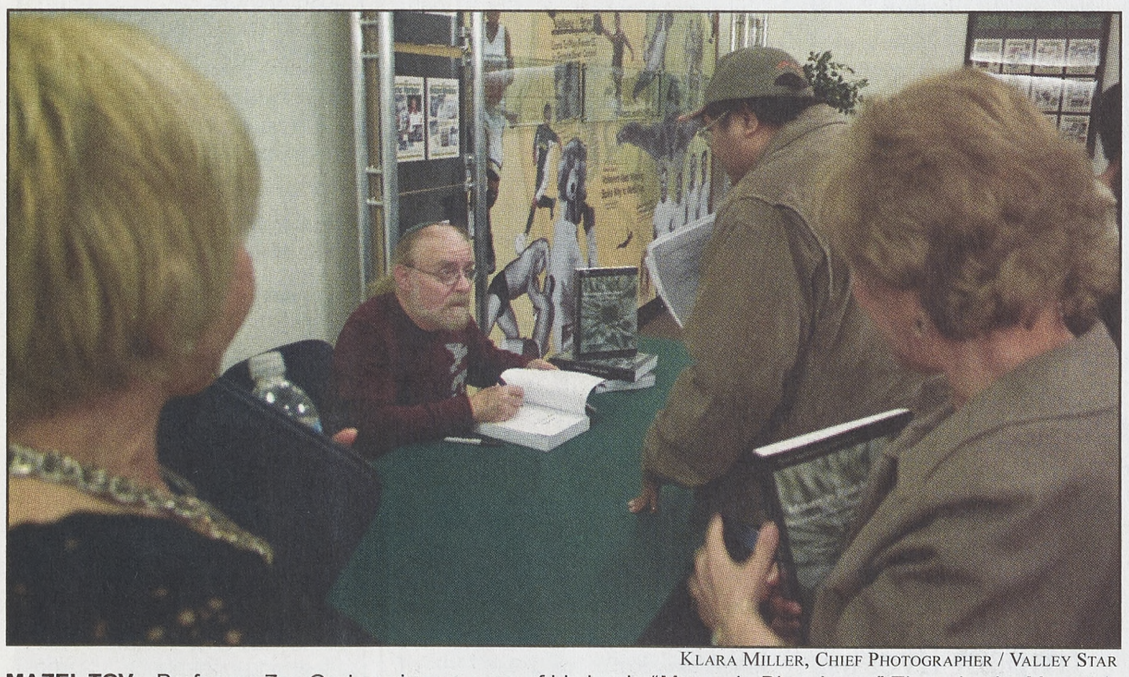
"As survivors, it is our obligation to make sure our history is rewritten correctly...We will not rest until the whole world knows the truth of the Armenian history," said Armine Elikuchukyan, president of the Armenian Student Association.

The genocide, which resulted in 1.5 million deaths, was carried out by the Ottoman Empire. It is considered the first genocide of the 20th century, and is commemorated every year on April 24; the day on which most of the killing took place in 1915.

Monarch Hall was starkly decorated for the event, with Armenian flags, candles, and a flowered cross serving as the only decoration for more than 40 attendees. Young Armenians read poetry over somber Armenian music during the service, showing the lasting effect of the genocide and demonstrating the hope that young Armenians have for the future.

"My people, my dear people, lovely people. Hundreds of years have passed but your love is

see *Genocide* page 2



KLARA MILLER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

MAZEL TOV - Professor Zev Garber signs a copy of his book, "Maven in Blue Jeans" Thursday in Monarch Hall. The LAVC Foundation sponsored the festivities which included readings from various speakers.

Book Signing Delivers Honor to Professor

■ **LAVC hosts book signing in honor of Professor Zev Garber's recently published work.**

NATALIE KESHISHIAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College, the LAVC Foundation and Hillel at LAVC hosted a book signing and lecture by Jewish studies professor Zev Garber Thursday, in honor of his recently published book, "Maven in Blue Jeans."

The three-hour event, which took place in the Fireside Room, was filled with more than 50 of Garber's colleagues, including Valley President Sue Carleo. Friends and family were also in attendance. The program included guest speakers William Wallis and Nancy Shiffin from the English department.

"I sometimes wonder if this is a eulogy," joked Garber in reference to the family and friends present during his lecture.

The book, which was available at the event for $75, is composed of various academic essays written by Garber's friends and colleagues, and is a tribute for his exceptional work as a scholar, according to the Purdue University Web site. A full bibliography of Garber's writing is also included.

Garber has taught at Valley since 1970 and is well known for his teaching and writing on the Holocaust, Jewish-Christian relations, as well as biblical interpretation.

Former student Mark Goodman, who is now himself a Jewish studies professor, spoke about his first experience in Garber's Jewish studies class.

"My first day in Zev's class,

see *Book Signing* page 2

Valley's New ASU Promises Change

■ **Incoming President Arthur Minasyan and VP Ian Coyne plan to reinvent the face of Valley's ASU and restore confidence in the student body.**

SHARON HARDWICK
STAFF WRITER

There is a common conception that Valley college students are apathetic. However, incoming Associated Student Union President Arthur Minasyan and Vice President Ian Coyne said that's not true.

"They proved it in the elections," said Coyne.

The reason for student disenfranchisement has been a lack of transparency within previous ASU's, and ineffective publicity about events, they said.

"The system works," said Coyne. "The flaw has been in the delivery."

Some students agree with Coyne, stating they need confidence restored in their representatives.

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE - Newly elected ASU President Arthur Minasyan smiles as he contemplates changes he plans on implementing for Valley College. Minasyan won with 56.7 percent of the vote in the ASU elections held on Thursday April 23, 2009.

"I don't trust the ASU at the moment," said student Nitesh Rawtani. "I want to know where the [ASU] money is going."

Rawtani added he wanted the new ASU to work on a cheaper cafeteria and a decrease in tuition.

Minasyan and Coyne are aware of what the students are asking for, they said, and the goal for next year is to reinvent the face of the ASU. With "ultra-ambitious" plans, said Coyne, the bottom line is to get the student body engaged and excited about being a Valley student.

"It's going to be an amazing year," said Minasyan. "I want [Valley] to be an experience for students."

While many projects are in preparation stage, Minasyan and Coyne have already put together

see *ASU* page 2

'Genocide'

continued from page 1

always in our hearts...Your fire will never extinguish, will always burn in our hearts, and in our memories," said a woman in Armenian.

Another woman spoke of Mt. Ararat in Armenian, a mountain considered the spiritual home of Armenians but now part of Turkish territory.

"You exist, you've always been here with pride, you exist in the world always as a dream, we are going to die one day, are we going to die without you Ararat? ...You remain far, you remain a dream Ararat."

Dance was also used to express the gamut of emotions Armenians have about their past, ranging from sadness about past wounds, to the joy of starting afresh.

"The dance was about after the genocide; everything reopens, but we are remembering our feelings about the past," said Knarik Nazilikian, who danced 'Kilkia,' named after a former Armenian city. "Dancing makes me feel better about who I am, and where my parents and ancestors came from, even though I was born here [in the United States]."

Marine Djougarian also danced during the service, showing deep sorrow through her movement across the stage.

[My dance] I begin happy, but then I remember the genocide, which is very tragic to me. I'm crying, and I am sad, and I am remembering my ancestors...I'm a dancer and I am happy that I dance, but a ceremony like this does not make me happy."

Arthur Minasyan, vice president of the Associated Student Union, believes that more should be done in recognition of the genocide.

"I do think the day needs to be recognized, I still talk to a lot of people who aren't aware of the atrocities that took place in 1915," said Minasyan. "Presidents in the past...they have recognized the Armenian Genocide, but then they take office, and then [nothing]...I hope Obama does, but the nation interest is his main concern."

'ASU'

continued from page 1

a "benefits package," which will include student discounts from local businesses and restaurants, as incentive to students to pay their ASU fee.

Other projects include a textbook rental program and an overhaul of the cafeteria, an issue that has addled the campus for years.

"I think everyone agrees that the cafeteria, in its current state, is a failure," said Coyne.

But the Minasyan-Coyne team admits they cannot implement their projects alone.

While 2008-09 has proved a tumultuous year for the ASU, culminating with the firing of Lobby Committee member Jesse Richardson and the resignation of Commissioner of Political Affairs Lupe Burgara as a result, Minasyan and Coyne plan to build the foundation for a forthright and accountable union body.

"We have a job, and our job is to represent students," said Coyne. "We're going to hold everyone accountable. If they're not doing their job, they will be removed."

In reference to the Richardson issue, Minasyan and Coyne said they encourage different opinions.

"[However] if you have a dissenting opinion and you're on the ASU, you can affect change [from] within the ASU," said Coyne.

With almost an entirely new board, Minasyan and Coyne are working with ASU Advisor Elizabeth Ortiz on a series of community leader speakers to inspire and teach real-world leadership skills to its executive council.

According to student Rahul Singh, leadership and transparency are just what this campus needs.

"It's a commuter school and they need to bring people together," he said. "We'd also like to see what they do. Show us that they're doing [their jobs]."

'Book Signing'

continued from page 1

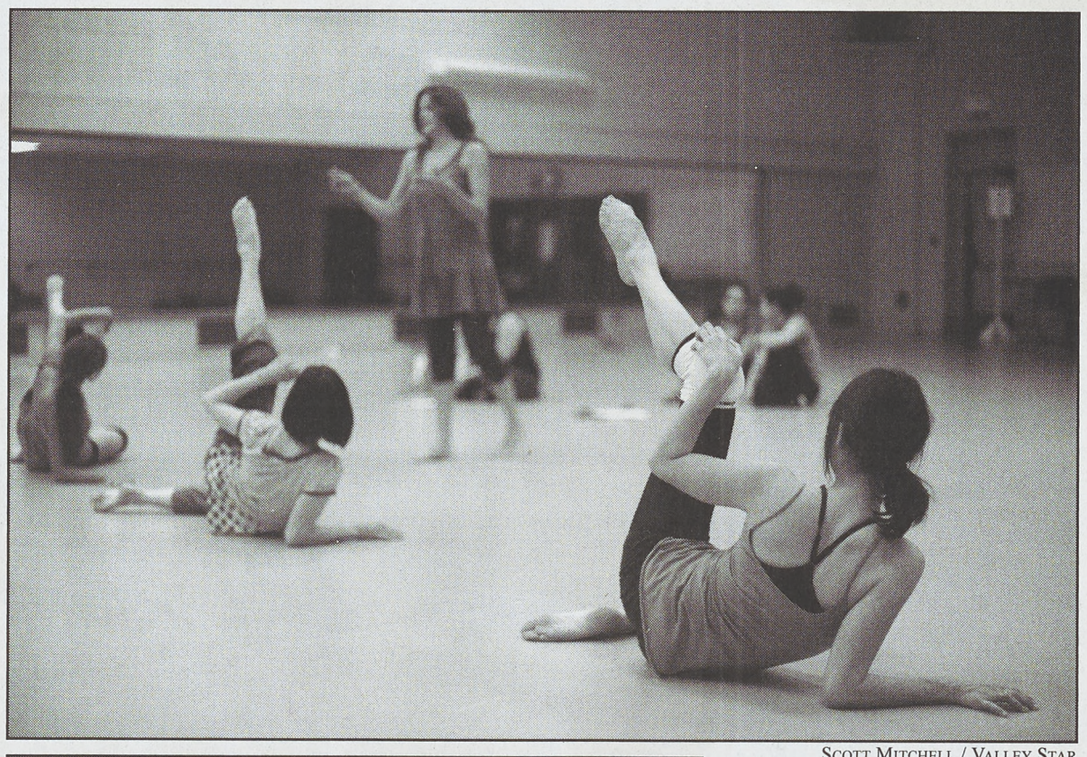
I said to myself is there anything he doesn't know," said Goodman. "He knows everything, he knows everything."

Goodman also credited Garber for being an inspiration in his personal spiritual pursuits.

" I went up to him one day and said Zev, I think I'm going to maybe study to become a Rabbi," he said.

A third of the book's proceeds are to be donated to Jewish studies students in the form of scholarships. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, contact the LAVC president's office at (818) 947-2321.

This Week In Photos: *Valley In Action*



SCOTT MITCHELL / VALLEY STAR

STRETCH FOR SUCCESS - Dancers warm up in the North Gym Dance Studio in preparation for their upcoming performances May 15 and 16.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT-Valley College hurdler, Wayne Shepheard, has his sights set on winning at the Southern California Final at Mt. San Antonio College May 9. Shepheard recently ran the 110 meter high hurdles in under 16 seconds and hopes to continue lowering his times.

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'Rally'

continued from page 1

Coyne spoke briefly about the subject about the fee rise, suggesting students should also benefit from the hike.

"If they're going to raise the fees, they should raise the level of education as well," he said.

The delegation of students who turned out for the rally head banged to the heavy metal of band "Last Hours" and chanted during the rally in support of the PAC.

"I'm grateful they took the time out of their schedules to plan this," said student Clay Gallardo. "It was one of the best events I've ever seen on our campus."

PAC. President Jesse Richardson was pleased with the event's turnout and hopes to deliver the petitions to lawmakers within the next few weeks.

"I was excited," said Richardson. "People came out for the metal and stayed for the message."

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Bummer Hummer

■ General Motors generally miserable actions will affect 21,000 employees.

ROBERT R. KING
STAFF WRITER

EDUARDO HERRERA / VALLEY STAR

These days, millions of Americans sweat through the workday hoping upon hope that they don't get called into a corner office to receive a pink slip and a farewell good luck tiding. For the 21,000 General Motors' employees who heard their jobs will be cut last week, those fears became a reality and it's due in large part to people in their Detroit boardroom repeatedly making poor financial decisions and producing an inferior product.

GM will close 2,600 dealerships and discontinue several lines of vehicles, including Pontiac, Saab, Saturn, and the microcosm of American excess, the Hummer.

The Hummer has been viewed by many in the U.S. as an unnecessary, gas guzzling monstrosity, but the 2009 versions' 13-14 estimated mpg in city rating is not the worst GM has to offer. According to GM's website, the 2009 Yukon Denali gets a searing 9-12 estimated mpg in city.

This exemplifies the nature of American products and services. Sure, the Hummer and Yukon can move a lot of people at one time but there are more efficient ways to do so.

Similarly, mortgage brokers gave people making $30,000 a year million-dollar mortgages, but there were more responsible loans to give them. The experts in the financial market should have seen there was something wrong with their practices, just like GM should have recognized they were setting themselves up to fail.

The groundwork for these problems began years ago and the current state of the economy is exemplified by the unemployment rate in the United States. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the lowest rate of unemployment in the United States since 1990 occurred in October 2000 when only 3.6 percent of the population was jobless. As of March 2009, that number was 9 percent, or 250 percent higher.

Maybe the people who made the decisions that caused the world to sink into this recession should endure the struggles of the average person. They might learn that just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should.

Auto executives and Wall Street fat cats didn't necessarily break any laws, but they have caused millions of people hardship by not seeking true efficiency and by not acting responsibly with other people's money and jobs. The fools who made these decisions should lose their jobs and be forced to endure the consequences of their investments, instead of receiving billions of dollars in bailouts so they can pretend nothing happened.

However, since that apparently won't happen any time soon, the Detroit car dons should think about making a product that can compete in today's world. They should start with creating more fuel-efficient vehicles and getting rid of the fuel fiends. The Hummer, as always, is a nice start.

Valley Students Have No Reason to Care

■ Why should students care about an insignificant stage of their lives?

SARAH KNOWLES
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College's Commencement Ceremony is just around the corner, and "graduates" are invited to the ceremony to celebrate their successes. There is a reason however, why attendees are allowed to invite an unlimited amount of guests – because the community college trend is that most of us don't care enough to attend, nor have any reason to do so.

Graduation from Valley means zero. An associate degree is nothing more than an excuse for students to feel like they have achieved something, when really the easy A's many achieve are from work consisting of fluffy assignments and no challenging substance.

"I think graduation ceremonies in general are pointless," said 24-year-old Valley College student, Chris Mower. "I mean, it's just a waste of a day you could be using for something else for a pointless ceremony where they don't even give you a degree when you graduate."

Of course, commencement is only the final disappointment in a long line of insignificant moments of community college education. Student government is another way for a select group of students to feel important and abuse non-existent power that they create, but no one else cares about.

Set aside the fake trips and coffee scandals of the Associated Student Union this year, the 2009-10 ASU council was recently voted in. While this may sound like big news, it wasn't, as the voter turnout seemed to have consisted of the friends of each candidate. According to official numbers, a mere 633 students bothered to turn up and vote, out of a student body of around 18,000. Wise choice, considering most of us don't know what ASU stands for.

Club days are a regular thing on campus, however the turnout is usually because of one thing – free food. Lets face it, as students in tough times we have to eat economically and heck, if it's free, we'll eat enough to cover dinner as well as lunch. As we satisfy our hunger for the rest of the day, many students cringe at loud-mouthed activists trying to prove some meaningless point about "student rights" (which even they won't care about once they get a real job).

Speaking of real jobs, those that will not be basking in the fake glory of graduation may start looking toward an actual future. For the small percentage of you who care, enjoy commencement; most of us however, will have better things to do.

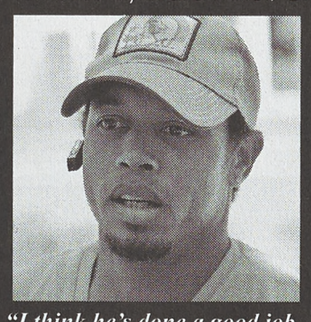
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and can be edited for publication. A full name and contact information must be supplied in order to be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday to be included in the next edition.

CAMPUS VIEW:

How do you feel Barack Obama has done in his first 100 days in office?

Photos by Klara Miller, Chief Photographer / Valley Star

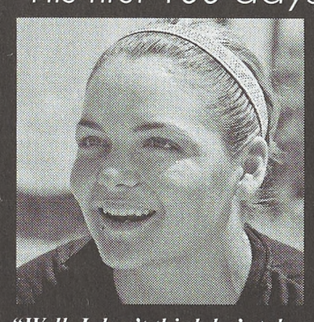


"I think he's done a good job for a guy who's come into quite a situation."

- Charles Randle
broadcasting

"I really haven't been following politics at all, but from what I hear I guess he's doing good."

- Caitlin Crunk
nursing



"Well, I don't think he's taking people out of Iraq... Other than that I don't really pay attention."

- Jennifer Lubetich
respiratory therapy

"...The reality is much hasn't really changed. There are small steps to anything that requires change, so it's too early to tell."

- Laqueita Owens
nursing

100 Days is No Measuring Stick

■ Obama's first 100 days in office have set a strong precedent for his term.

JOE LAFLEUR
OPINION EDITOR

When it comes to our politicians, particularly our president and the promises they make, I've always felt it important to maintain a healthy amount of skepticism.

President Barack Obama promised a hefty amount during his campaign, and as much as I believed in his ideologies, I struggled with whether he could accomplish these goals. But since his first full day in office, I've found it harder to maintain the skepticism that I once prided myself on when it came to our government.

January 21, 2009 set the precedent for the next four years. On that day, Obama's first full day in office, he imposed new rules freezing the salaries of his senior aides, imposed new limits on lobbyists and demanded that there be more transparency, from public access to the inner workings of the government.

Since, Obama has passed a $787 billion economic stimulus package, began discussions on health care reform, released a withdrawal plan from Iraq and a boost in troop numbers in Afghanistan. He has also, among other things, signed orders to raise fuel efficiency standards, lift the restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research, and closed Guantanamo Bay.

"I think there's still a lot of positive things that Obama can do and will do, especially because he's not [George] Bush."

- Armen Kapshanyan
biological science

In addition, he has made efforts to ease relations with Cuba; extended health care coverage to millions of children; ousted the president of General Motors; traveled to Europe, Turkey, Canada and Latin America; adamantly took a position opposing the use of torture to gain information from prisoners; set aside tracts of wilderness for federal protection. If that wasn't enough, let us not forget that he still managed to find time to pick out a new dog, a promise he made to his children during his campaign.

"I think he's doing a pretty good job," said Armen Kapshanyan, a biological science major at Valley College. "I think there are still a lot of positive things that Obama can do and will do, especially because he's not [George] Bush. I think anybody besides Bush is good right now."

While Obama has accomplished much, there have been a couple snags. It was not until his 100th day in office that he was working with a full cabinet after three candidates withdrew from their nominated positions. And the argument still remains as to whether Obama has held true to his promise of increasing bipartisanship.

However, no presidency is truly defined in the first 100 days, a benchmark that can be attributed to Franklin D. Roosevelt and his goal to implement his New Deal. It is still early in Obama's term and there is still much to accomplish. I'll let those who remain cynical do so because they are the checks and balances of our society. Without a watchful public to apply the pressure and catch every mistake, politicians would get away with more than they do already. For the time being, I'll set aside my skeptic views and stand in awe of a man who entered office with an enormous pile of garbage to clean up, including a two-front war and an economic crisis in the face of high expectations and an enormous amount of pressure, he has remained poised and calm.

LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, May 6

Delores Huerta Labor Institute and LAVC Invite You to "Labor History Day" from 12-1 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Emilia Casteneda will talk about her experience during the Mexican Repatriation and the lawsuit the MALDEF filed on her behalf. The event is sponsored by the LAVC, LAVC Puente Program, the Delores Huerta Labor Institute and LAVC MEChA. For more information, contact Betzy Ramirez at (213) 763-7070 or email bramirez@dhli.org.

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, May 6
How to Transfer Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 7
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Careers in Health Workshop 1-2 p.m. FL 102

Tuesday, May 12
CSU Northridge Rep 3-7 p.m.
How to Transfer Workshop 1-2 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.

All activities held in Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless other wise indicated. Call the Career/Transfer Center for further information (818) 947-2646.

MOVIE REVIEW

For Love or Money

■ The "X-Men" franchise's latest offering is more concerned about box office draw and explosions than story.

JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

Brimming with explosions and earth-shaking howls, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" is big on action and short on story, leaving the film feeling a little long in the tooth. Maybe it's because we live in the post "Dark Knight" era of the genre, but audiences have come to expect more from their superheroes.

Taking bits and pieces of Wolverine's convoluted past and forming them into a plausible origin story is a daunting task to say the least. "Origins" tells the journey of Logan, the soldier becoming Weapon X, until revenge transforms him into Wolverine. Instead of reestablishing the hero's origins a la "Batman Begins," or using subtle reinvention like "Iron Man," "Origins" commits the biggest faux pas and condenses the story in lieu of a cat and mouse game between Wolverine and his nemeses William Stryker and Victor Creed. This is a symptom of the writing doing too much when its only function should be carving out who Wolverine is. The combination of stilted dialogue, extraneous plot lines to include superheroes for future movies (X-Men First Class or Deadpool, anyone?) and lack of dedication to the source material make this film feel like a missed opportunity.

What makes matters worse is the liberties taken with the characters in the film. Casual fans may not care about the differences between Wolverine, Creed, Stryker, or Deadpool onscreen compared to the comic book, but it's the diehard fans who will see the sequels and future spinoffs who may not be too happy.

From a performance standpoint, the actors are able to hold their own despite the tough script. Hugh Jackman is more than capable at reprising the title character. While Jackman has the charisma and attitude to keep the character from being completely one-dimensional, it would've been nice to see him add a dramatic wrinkle to the character. Hopefully the writers will get that right for the inevitable sequel.

Liev Schreiber is the Victor Creed fans have been looking for, even if he doesn't look the part as well as Tyler Mane did in the "X-Men" trilogy. It's the attitude and desire for carnage that Schreiber conveys that makes Creed a villain instead of a lackey. Taylor Kitsch ("Friday Night Lights") nails his audition as Gambit, and while he seems out of place in this film, he could easily headline his own movie. Speaking of future films, let the countdown begin for the Deadpool movie. Ryan Reynolds had the best of the smaller roles and the best line of the film detailing his love for swords.

It's apparent that this film was made to be a box-office juggernaut littered with explosions and cameos. While there is something to be said for that, it's the storylines and dedication to the comics that make these films memorable after opening weekend. While the past few genre films have given comic book adaptations credibility, this film is an example of commerce over art.

Students Go Through the Rabbit Hole

■ Coddington puts a new spin on the classic "Alice in Wonderland."

JAMIE NORRIED
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Valley College production of "ALICE^{n}," written and directed by theatre arts professor Christopher Coddington, is a lively and entertaining performance.

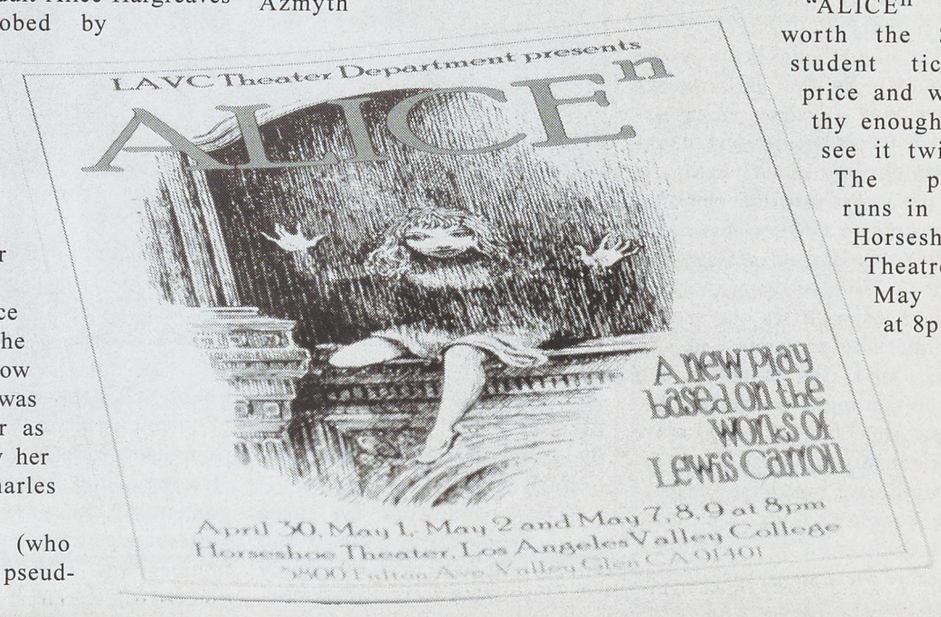
The play, lacking in props, is improved by the ingenious use of costumes, music, and choreographed cast members as set pieces themselves. This thought-provoking charade is sure to be enjoyed by classic "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" fans, and provides an abundance of symbolism for any literature maven.

Coddington based this production on Lewis Carroll's 'Alice' books, along with some additional material from Carroll's poetry and other works. The play opens with the adult Alice Hargreaves being probed by reporters inquiring of her relation to Lewis Carroll and her influence in the Alice stories. She explains how the story was told to her as a child, by her uncle Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (who used the pseudonym "Lewis Carroll" to sign his children's books and other comic works).

Hargreaves then slips into a daydream of her memories as little Alice Liddell, and loses herself in the story that took her through a rabbit hole and into a fantastical world of madness. The story is narrated by characters Dodgson (Richard Rossi), Carroll (Timothy Miller), Hargreaves (Roberta Burger), Wonderland Alice (Crystal Castillo), and other cast members.

"She came upon two 'phat' little men," Carroll narrates, introducing Tweedleee and Tweedleum. Shane Richardson and Julio Dominguez as the "phat" duo delight the audience with their hip-hop duet of "The Walrus and the Carpenter." Complete with baggy pants, backward caps, and giant clock medallions, the pair speak in riddles that bewilder Alice — a trend among the characters Alice encounters on her journey. Azmyth Kaminski as the hookah-smoking Caterpillar and Jonathan Solarte as the Cheshire Cat are two more puzzlers who produce a mystifying performance.

Original music by Matt Sheridan and Eric Killian yields important narration throughout the show and lends to lively dance sequences which sometimes include audience participation. Costume design by Judy Ashton is another element which plays a symbolic role in telling the story. Absurd cast costumes, including Alice's French maid dress, help distinguish between the real world and Wonderland. The lack of costume changes throughout the three-hour play may create confusion for audience members who haven't read the books; however, this creative low-budget effect illustrates the nonsensical theme of the original story.


LAVC Theater Department presents
ALICE n
A new play based on the works of Lewis Carroll
April 30, May 1, May 2 and May 7, 8, 9 at 8pm
Horseshoe Theater, Los Angeles Valley College
5900 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen CA 91401

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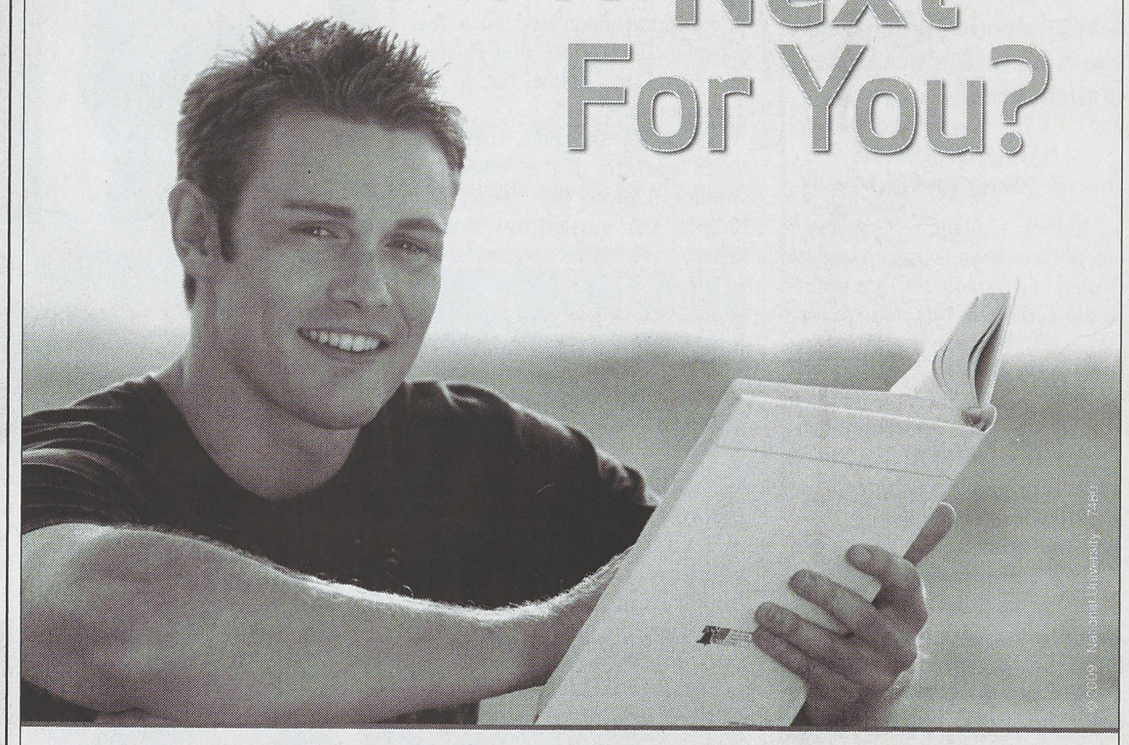

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Apples Abound During Annual Apple Awards

LAUREN LEES
ONLINE EDITOR

The apple for some is the fruit of knowledge, for others, the birth of the law of gravity, but for Valley College teachers it is a token of appreciation they receive during the annual Apple Awards ceremony, hosted Thursday in Monarch Hall.

In her first speech on campus as the official president of Valley, Sue Carleo spoke of the importance of teachers and their role in a student's life, citing her own childhood teachers as examples.

"It's really important for students in particular to let teachers know what a positive impact they make on their life and to recognize it formally," she said before heading on stage. "So that they can really get some joy out of what they are doing anyway because they love to do that work."

This year 600 students voted for their favorite teachers, with the crystal apple awards going to Geordie Wright, Anthony O'Regan, and Helen Fountaine. Because of the high voting volume, Tau Alpha Epsilon President Patrick Thompson announced the new recipient method for teachers to receive a certificate and the crystal apple.

"This year we had 600 and some odd vote, about 160 teachers received a vote," said Thompson. "It was just too many, we had to make it harder to get, because that boosts the prestige of it anyway… this year we rounded it down it 60 something teachers by making it three votes."

This new tradition, which will be upheld for the years to follow, didn't prevent the teachers and various students from enjoying the presentations of the crystal apple. After dance student Noelle Andressen-Kale finished her performance of "Closure" for the audience, she came back onstage to speak and accept the award on behalf of dance teacher and friend Geordie Wright.

"What I treasure most when there were no words, were the embraces," she said.

Newly elected ASU president Arthur Minasyan spoke for Political Science teacher Anthony O'Regan.

"He's a role model, an advisor, and most importantly a friend," Minasyan said before calling O'Regan onstage. O'Regan sincerely and swiftly thanked the audience and Minsyan replying, "I can't think of anything else I would rather do then teach… Thank you very much for this award."

Valley student Jose Fontada presented ESL teacher Helen Fountaine her crystal apple.

"She taught me the difference between consonants and vowels when I first came here [Valley] as a ESL student," he said lightheartedly. "She helped me to express myself and be myself and I always keep that with me."

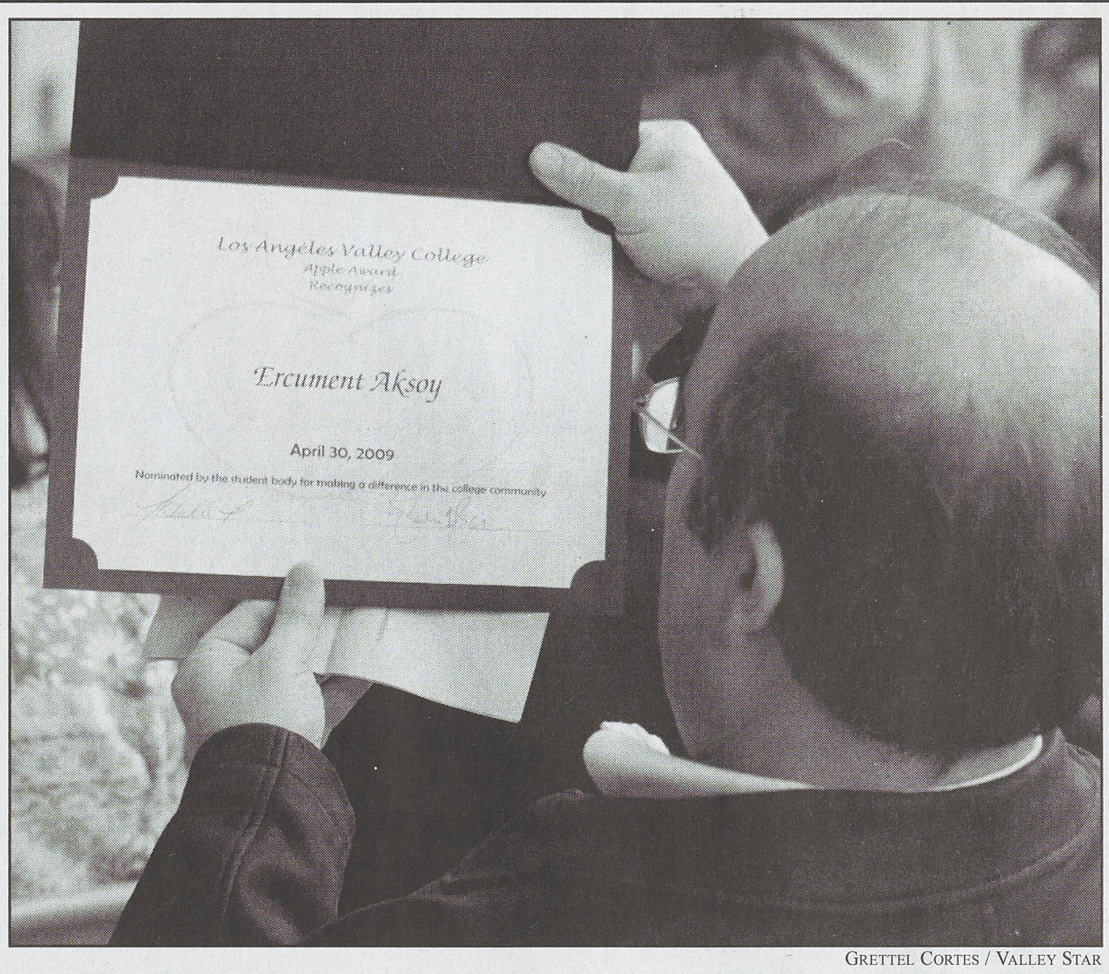
Fountaine accepted her award with regards for her ESL students stating, "My students are motivated and I'm so proud of the ones like Jose moving on and taking regular classes from the ESL classes."

After the crystal apple presentations, TAE vice president Michelle Palacios joined Thompson in announcing the apple certificate awards to the 62 recipients, greeted with cheers from students and faculty alike.

English teacher Ellen Davis loves receiving the award saying, "It makes my day, because a lot of times students don't do well, you have a bad day, you feel really bad, and to get this award and know that some students thought you made a difference it's important," she said.

TAE member Rahul Singh helped during the event while clapping and shouting for some of his teachers who received an award.

"These people actually care about their students individually, besides their subjects," said Singh. "They actually care about you and your life… that is a good thing only Valley College and their professor's offer."


Los Angeles Valley College
Apple Award
Recognizes
Ercument Aksoy
April 30, 2009
Nominated by the student body for making a difference in the college community

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

AN APPLE A DAY - Valley College Professor Ercument Aksoy admires the award he received at the Apple Awards Ceremony held in Monarch Hall on Thursday. The Apple Awards allows students to nominate and vote for their favorite teachers each year.

GRETTEL CORTES / VALLEY STAR

WARM WELCOME - Tau Alpha Epsilon President Patrick Thompson and Vice President Michelle Palacios welcome students and faculty to the annual Apple Awards Ceremony, held in Monarch Hall on Thursday.

UPCOMING RELEASES

CD

PICKS OF THE WEEK:

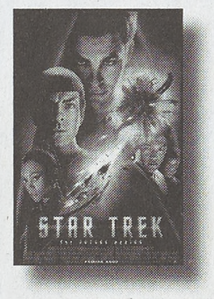
MEAT PUPPETS *SEWN TOGETHER*

OTHER RELEASES:

The Crystal Method, *Divided By Night*
The Datsuns, *Headstunts*
Cam'ron, *Crime Pays*

FILM

PICKS OF THE WEEK:



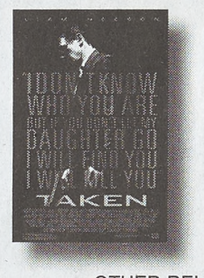
STAR TREK

UPCOMING RELEASES:

Next Day Air
Adoration
Little Ashes

DVD

PICKS OF THE WEEK:



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OTHER RELEASES:

Underworld: Rise of the Lycans
Of Time and the City
Passengers

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SAMUEL OKSNER / VALLEY STAR

THE SEASON ENDS HERE - Valley's Most Valuable Player, Alex Gaudioso, slides into third a second too late and is thrown out. The Monarchs lost 6-2 to Mission College at home Thursday, ending their worst season since 2004.

Painful Season Comes to Merciful End

■ **Late Mission Rally Closes the Book on Valley.**

H. GORE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Valley College baseball team finished its worst season since a 1-35 mark in 2004 at Pike Field last Thursday in a manner typical of their current campaign; they lost. The Los Angeles Mission College Eagles completed a four-game season sweep of the Monarchs by rallying in the late innings for a 6-2 victory.

The Monarchs (10-32 overall, 7-22 in the Western State Conference South) finished the year with five consecutive losses, and the overall poor play of the team had head coach Dave Mallas planning for next season after the game.

"In a year like this, the first thing you've gotta do is assess your coaching staff and yourself and what you're doing as a program," said Mallas. "We're gonna make some changes. And we're gonna get some guys that compete at the level that we need them to."

For the first six innings the Monarchs played as well as a coach could hope. Freshman Adair Robles controlled the game from the mound, and the offense did their part starting in the fourth.

Valley had bases loaded with two out when designated-hitter A.J. Homayun stepped into the batter's box to face the Eagles' Cale Hamilton. Homayun grounded to the left-side of the infield and raced down the line to barely beat the throw to first, allowing the Monarchs to score for a 1-0 lead. Valley tacked on another run in the bottom of the sixth before losing control of the game in the top of the seventh.

Pitcher Adair Robles surrendered a run with one out in the seventh, and was then lifted from the game because he re-aggravated a sore gluteus muscle.

Mission (21-20, 16-12) took advantage of Robles' departure by pouncing on his replacement, reliever Tony Goebel. The Eagles tied the game at two following an RBI-single by catcher Justin Czyrklis, and took the lead for good at 4-2 with a two-run homer to center by pinch-hitter Chris Montgomery. Valley freshman catcher Oscar Sorriano summed up the seventh inning and the season.

"We came out strong but they got a couple of base hits and it was like a snowball effect... All downhill from there," said a dejected Sorriano after the game. "The season didn't go the way we wanted so we gotta come out and do better next year."

The Eagles' Czyrklis blasted a two-run shot to left-center in the top of the ninth off of freshman pitcher Joey Gerig to cement Valley's fate. After the final out, sophomores such as team MVP Alex Gaudioso reflected on the poor end to their junior college careers.

"It was tough. We have a lot of good guys on the team," said Gaudioso. "A lot of us are friends so it was tough going through all the losses, but at least it was with friends."

Seventeen of the 28 players on Valley's roster are freshmen giving the Monarchs a good core to build around for next season. Coach Mallas is prepared to overhaul the entire team.

"We need to improve pitching. We need to improve defensively and we also need to improve our offense," said Mallas. "This type of season opens your eyes as a coaching staff and makes you wanna go out there and get back after it and get some of the better players."

Stark Delivers to Valley Second Time

LUCAS THOMPSON
STAFF WRITERS

Diedra K Stark's unique personality; driven by determination, and a resentment of complacency rests in a tall and lean body frame. Her resume gathers enough words to fill a three hundred page novel, yet at 58 her ambitiousness for life has brought her back to where she started.

Recruited for basketball in 1968 from North Hollywood High School, Stark went on to earn her associate of arts degree from Valley in 1970.

"I had an amazing experience here," Stark said about her time at Valley. "It was a great stepping stone (and) actually led me to my career."

In the first of many attempts to further herself, Stark transferred from Valley to California State University, Long Beach, where she majored in physical education and speech. Continuing her studies at CSULB, Stark earned her master's degree with an emphasis in athletic administration in 1978.

Although her job as athletic director will now consist of administrative duties, Stark is no stranger to the physical side of athletics. She participated in an astonishing four varsity sports: basketball, volleyball, softball and badminton. In 1970 she was a member of the Junior College Division 1-A state basketball championship team and was selected as Most Valuable Player. During her time in collegiate sports, Stark played for two National teams, representing California as a member of the women's basketball and field hockey teams.

Anxious to begin her career after graduation, Stark joined CSULB as a teaching assistant.

"My biggest achievement is to be a really good teacher," Stark says about counseling her students. Stark later taught at the Long Beach Unified and Los Angeles Unified School Districts before returning to Valley.

In 1973, Stark returned to Valley taking the position of associate professor of physical education in the Women's Physical Education Department. "I was excited and enthusiastic," Stark says of her second tour with Valley.

Holding herself to the highest standard, Stark taught and coached the women's volleyball team for five years. She would later go on to coach co-ed badminton and women's basketball. Through her coaching career she was named "Coach of the Year" for women's volleyball in 1974 and 1976, taking both the volleyball and basketball teams to State Championships.

In 1976, Stark became Valley's Director of Women's Athletics, remaining in the position for 15 years, also serving as the Director of Men's Athletics from 1979-81.

Keeping with her pursuit of excellence Stark was announced as a distinguished alumnus in 1999, and 10 years later, returns to Valley once again to take the rank of athletic director for the campus.

"I think she's a tremendous person, and will do well in this position," current Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero said. "She pays attention to detail."

Stark was officially announced early last week as the new A.D and will take full reign over the position sometime in June according to Ferrero. "The training will be very extensive," Ferrero says.

When asked about her goals as new A.D., Stark replied, "I want to make sure I have an open door policy with all the coaches."

The common and unmotivated may consider retirement at this stage in their career, Stark is looking for another calling. Amongst her many accomplishments, Stark's biggest tool may be her experience as a student athlete. Stark is living proof of making the most of your surroundings wherever they may be, and stresses the importance Valley can make to athletes and students alike.

"I think for the student at this level we can teach them something they have never learned before,"said Stark. "(We want) to give them ground work...To do whatever they want to do."

SoCal Sports Start the Summer Out Right

CAITIE UHLMANN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Dodgers, and Anaheim Ducks all have one thing in common; they are on top of their game, and as hot as the Southern California weather.

With both the Lakers and Ducks competing in the playoffs, and the Dodgers winning an astounding 11 straight at home, who wouldn't be proud to be a Southern California sports fan? The teams are living up to the hype, so much that they are acquiring fans from all over. Just ask Wisconsin native and sports enthusiast Ben Martinelli, who recently relocated to Southern California.

"I enjoy watching the Lakers. It is very different that people take pride in an NBA team when I'm used to having to watch the horrendous Milwaukee Bucks," says Martinelli. "They (Lakers) have definitely have lived up to the hype, they are the main reason I have started watching the NBA again."

So starts the praise of the untouchable Lakers which is justifiably deserved; as they've won five conference titles since 2000, and three consecutive championships from 2000-2002. The championship title loss to the Boston Celtics last year left some fans hoping for redemption. Sherman Oaks native and avid Laker fan Meghan Addis, believes this is the Lakers' year, even though they are currently 0-1 in the Western Conference semifinals

"They (the Lakers), will win the NBA championship this year because it's not just about having a "Kobe" on the team. This year they've had great ball movement, amazing shooting skills, and every player hustles during every game," justifies Addis. "They have players like Shannon Brown, Trevor Ariza, and Josh Powell who are going to step up when they need it."

From bleeding purple and gold, to 'Thinking Blue,' it's time to give props to the Dodgers for their 11 straight home wins to begin the season. Coming off a National League division series win from last year, they are currently leading the National League West. The Manny Ramirez trade seems to be working out nicely, but allow me to be a little skeptical. It's still early in the season, and anything can happen.

With all of the hype placed on The Lakers, and Dodgers, some of us tend to forget about hockey. Even though they have won seven playoff series and one Stanley Cup Championship in their short 15 year existence, I will always think of Emilio Estevez when I think of the Anaheim Ducks. Viewed as the underdog going into the NHL playoffs, the eighth-seeded Anaheim Ducks upset the number one-seeded San Jose Sharks four games to two, and have now moved on to the conference semifinals.

So begins summer, full of expectation and excitement. Yes, it is a great time to be a Southern California sports fan. Is there anything we can do to improve as fans, and boost team morale? Martinelli seems to think so.

"The only complaint I have against SoCal sports, is that the fans show up late and leave early. No one wants to stay to watch the whole game, or even tailgate," states Martinelli. "I have to tailgate before a game otherwise it doesn't feel right."

Spoken like a true Midwesterner.

Spring Smack Down

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Monarch linemen hit the sled hard as part of the football teams spring workouts. The season begins September 6.